

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 9 being the independent claims. Claims 1-2, 9, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/001341 to Aikoh et al. Claims 3-8 and 10-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully antedates Aikoh et al. Aikoh et al. claims priority to PCT Application No. PCT/JP01/08608, which was filed on September 28, 2001. However, PCT Application PCT/JP01/08608 was published only in Japanese, but was not published in English under PCT Article 21(2). Therefore, pursuant to MPEP §2136.03 II and 35 U.S.C. §102(e), the critical reference date of Aikoh et al. is its corresponding U.S. filing date of March 13, 2003.

The present application claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 2003-10349, filed on February 19, 2003. A certified translation of Korean Patent Application No. 2003-10349 is enclosed herewith to perfect the priority claim of the present application.

Therefore, the February 19, 2003 priority date of the present application is prior to the March 13, 2003 critical reference date of Aikoh et al. and therefore, Aikoh et al. is not prior art in the present application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(e) rejections of Claims 1-2, 9, and 14-15 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-2, 9, and 14-15 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written over a horizontal line.

Paul J. Farrell
Reg. No.: 33,494
Attorney for Applicant

THE FARRELL LAW FIRM, LLP

290 Broadhollow Road, Suite 210E
Melville, New York 11747

Tel: (516) 228-3565

Fax: (516) 228-8475